

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-31 were pending in the present application. By way of this reply, claims 3, 5, 8-10, 13, 15, 17-24, and 29, which are drawn to the non-elected species, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 16, 25-28, and 30-31 are now pending in the present application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify how the valve body controls the flow of cleaning fluid. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in Figure 4 and the accompanying text, as filed. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 102**Claims 1, 6-7, 12, 14, 16, 27, and 31**

Claims 1, 6-7, 12, 14, 16, 27, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,402,052 ("Murawa"). By way of this reply, claim 1 has been amended. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claim, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Embodiments disclosed in the present application are directed to a valve having a valve body controllable by the pressure of cleaning fluid. In accordance with one embodiment shown in Figure 3, at a low pressure, the ball element **50** floats between the valve seats **54, 58** of

the inlet **24** and the first outlet **26**. Due to such a configuration, cleaning fluid can flow out through both the first and second outlets **26, 28** at a low pressure. In addition, at a high pressure, the ball element **50** is driven to close the first outlet **26** and, accordingly, the cleaning fluid can exit only through the second outlet **28**. That is, *one valve body* which is controlled by fluid pressure can determine the path of cleaning fluid which flows from one inlet to *at least two outlets without involvement of an additional valve body*.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 requires, in part, a valve body influencing the at least two paths of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the at least two outlets, wherein a first outlet in fluid communication with the inlet creates a first path of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the first outlet, and a second outlet in fluid communication with the inlet creates a second path of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the second outlet. Amended claim 1 further requires, in part, that the valve body is controlled by the pressure of the cleaning fluid in at least two valve positions such that the valve body determines, *without involvement of an additional valve body*, through which path of the first path, the second path, and combination thereof the cleaning fluid flows.

Murawa is directed to a windshield washer nozzle for an automotive vehicle. Murawa discloses a nozzle including a housing, at least one fluid input port, and at least a first and second flow path. With respect to Murawa, the Examiner has indicated, at page 2 of the Office Action dated February 20, 2007, that the valve body **116b** forces all flow to the outlet **103a** when in the position shown in Figure 3. It is noted, however, the additional valve body **116a** should be involved in determining whether or not cleaning fluid can flow through the path from the inlet **106a** to the outlet **103a**. That is, Murawa merely discloses a valve system where at least *two balls should be involved* to determine how cleaning fluid flows from two inlets to

two outlets. Therefore, Murawa fails to disclose at least that the valve body is controlled by the pressure of the cleaning fluid in at least two valve positions such that the valve body determines, *without involvement of an additional valve body*, through which path of the first path, the second path, and combination thereof the cleaning fluid flows, as required by amended claim 1.

In view of the above, Murawa neither shows nor suggests the present invention as recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Murawa for at least the above reasons. Dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4, and 25-26

Claims 1-2, 4, and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,329,949 ("Moncourtois"). By way of this reply, claim 1 has been amended. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claim, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, amended claim 1 requires, in part, a valve body influencing the at least two paths of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the at least two outlets, wherein a first outlet in fluid communication with the inlet creates a first path of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the first outlet, and a second outlet in fluid communication with the inlet creates a second path of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the second outlet.

Moncourtois is directed to a radio remote-controlled automatic vehicle wash system. The Examiner has indicated, at page 3 of the Office Action dated February 20, 2007, that Moncourtois shows an inlet **56** and two outlets **94, 82**. However, it is noted that the reference numeral **82** merely denotes a drain aperture, and the drain aperture **82** does not create a fluid path with the alleged inlet **56**. As such, Moncourtois does not disclose that a first outlet in

fluid communication with the inlet creates a first path of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the first outlet and a second outlet in fluid communication with the inlet creates a second path of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the second outlet, as required by amended claim 1.

In view of the above, Moncourtois neither shows nor suggests the present invention as recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Moncourtois for at least the above reasons. Dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, 11, 28, and 30

Claims 1, 7, 11, 28, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,445,065 ("Waldrum"). By way of this reply, claim 1 has been amended. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claim, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, amended claim 1 requires, in part, that a first outlet in fluid communication with the inlet creates a first path of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the first outlet, and a second outlet in fluid communication with the inlet creates a second path of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the second outlet.

With respect to Waldrum, the Examiner has indicated, at page 3 of the Office Action dated February 20, 2007, that Waldrum shows nozzles **18**, inlet **34**, outlet **60**, and valve member **48**. However, it is noted that the inlet **34** and the outlet **60** can have only one fluid path, and the valve member **48** can influence the flow of fluid only to the outlet **60**. As such, Waldrum does not disclose that a first outlet in fluid communication with the inlet creates a first path of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the first outlet and a second outlet in fluid

communication with the inlet creates a second path of the cleaning fluid from the inlet to the second outlet, as required by amended claim 1.

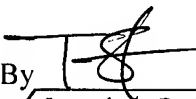
In view of the above, Waldrum neither shows nor suggests the present invention as recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Waldrum for at least the above reasons. Dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this application to be in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17102.013001).

Dated: April 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By  #45,079
Jonathan P. Osha THOMAS SCHORSER
Registration No.: 33,986
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments